

13th, 1909. The case itself was the usual sort of quack grafting. A country boy came to town, went to "Dr. Taylor & Co." for a slight pain in the back, was promptly stung for all he had—\$10.00—and the boy's aunt and guardian was bled for \$200.00 more. It came so easy that Arberry, who runs "Dr. Taylor & Co." tried to get another couple of hundred dollars by telling the aunt that the boy had valvular disease of the heart and would die if he did not cure him—for \$200.00 more! But he overstepped himself and that same day saw his arrest. He made a hard fight (it is said that the quacks have subscribed no less than \$25,000.00 to protect him), retaining Carrol Cook, to whom the Assistant District Attorney referred as "the fox of the bar," as his counsel. Through the able work of the attorney, evidence was admitted from four distinguished members of the Society who had examined the boy, to the effect that they could and did swear as a matter of fact (and not a mere opinion) that the boy did not have and never had had either an abscess of the prostate or valvular disease of the heart. It is the first case of the kind in which a verdict of this sort has been secured in the United States, and it marks an epoch in the war of honesty and legitimate medical science against those dishonest and disreputable members of the profession they disgrace who follow the practices of the advertising quack. It was learned from the defendant, under cross-examination, that "Dr. Taylor & Co." is a corporation, the principal stockholder being one O. C. Joslen, formerly licensed to practice in this State, but who was convicted in the U. S. Court in 1905 and his license revoked; his crime was sending a letter, offering to commit an abortion, through the mail. Six of this gentry were convicted at the same time, but as they were only fined \$500.00 apiece, it did not do much good. If we can get some more of these chaps on the "false pretense" charge, which is a felony and State's prison offense, it will probably discourage the thriving business of quackery in this State. The thanks of the Society are certainly due the four physicians who gave so much of their time to following the case and giving their evidence: Dr. John C. Spencer, Dr. E. G. McConnell, Dr. A. J. Lartigau and Dr. Emile Schmoll.

Of recent years a new field has been opened for properly equipped physicians which has not received the attention from our medical schools that it deserves. Dr. William F. NEEDS. Snow, a thoroughly trained sanitarian and the Secretary of the State Board of Health, says that there are few men available who possess the necessary education in preventive medicine to make them efficient officers of the public health. At this time, when so few opportunities are open to medical graduates, it would seem that universities should fill this want by giving an adequate course of instruction in Sanitary Science.

That the scope for such work will soon be increased is shown by Dr. Snow's statement. He believes that the State should be divided into several administrative sections, such as the Sacramento Val-

ley, the San Joaquin Valley, Eureka, San Francisco and Los Angeles divisions. In each the State Board of Health should place a medical officer, who would give his entire time to the work, and a sub-station of the Hygienic Laboratory properly equipped and provided with an assistant. Food and sanitary inspectors would be under the immediate direction of the division medical officer. The duties of such officers would be largely advisory to county and local health boards; they would be continuous employees of the State with positions secure from political influence. Furthermore Dr. Snow urges all incorporated towns of 10,000 and over to appoint a full time medical officer of health and to give him the essential laboratory equipment for the ordinary work of milk and communicable disease control. Unincorporated towns and thickly settled rural districts will be encouraged to unite in forming union districts for the provision of a health officer and a laboratory.

The State has set the example for good and thorough work and our medical schools will be forced to recognize the growing demand for well trained sanitarians.

This whole question of the prosecution of illegal practitioners and of those who are licensed but are nevertheless following dishonest quackery, is a very large and a very important one. For years it has been neglected; indeed, it never was done in anything but a casual and sporadic manner, and now that one comes to look into the Augean stable, it is seen at a glance that the work of cleaning up is going to be no child's play. The Board of Examiners has retained an attorney—Mr. Kaufman, who prosecuted so successfully the Arberry case—and a plan for a general move for the defense of the law is being formulated. It is a tremendous undertaking, however, to see that this work is properly launched all over the State; and especially is this the case when we remember that the Board is practically without funds to begin the work. But it will be begun and at no distant date; the object is to begin it right and let it develop slowly and surely; funds will be forthcoming when the work is under way. Because so very little has been done in past years, and as naturally follows therefore, because there are so many violations of the law in various parts of the State, many of our members and physicians generally have become impatient—and naturally. But we should remain as patient as possible for awhile yet and see whether the plan the Board of Examiners so recently decided to formulate will not work out right in the end; it is often better to "make haste slowly" than to rush things and have subsequent trouble that might have been avoided.

Surgery, of necessity, courts simplicity. Elaborate instruments, cumbersome apparatus and involved methods of procedure are out of place in the modern operating room. Our needs are few; pretentious antiseptic methods have given way to simple asepsis. We scoff at complicated apparatus, such as

ADVANCES IN THORACIC SURGERY.